

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

May it please Your Majesty;

On February 19th, 1901, the first meeting of the Committee appointed by Your Majesty's beloved and deeply lamented father King Edward to consider a suitable Memorial to Queen Victoria of blessed memory, was held under the presidency of the late Marquis of Salisbury.

The Committee consisted of the following:—
The Marquis of Salisbury, K.G., Chairman.

Rt. Hon. A. Akers-Douglas, M.P.
Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour, M.P.
Rt. Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh.
Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, M.P., G.C.B.
Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.
Rt. Hon. Earl Cadogan, K.G.
Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Fowler, M.P., G.C.S.I.
Rt. Hon. Lord George Hamilton, M.P.
Rt. Hon. The Earl of Kimberley, K.G.
Rt. Hon. The Earl of Rosebery, K.G.
Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Treasurer.
Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Arthur Bigge, K.C.B., Hon. Secretary.

At their first meeting the Committee resolved:

(1) That the Memorial should be architectural, with a personal reference to the Queen.

(2) That it should not be utilitarian, and that it should include an effigy of the Queen.

(3) That it should be in London.

(4) That the Secretaries of State for India and the Colonies should confidentially ascertain whether these parts of the Empire are desirous of taking part in the undertaking.

(5) That subscriptions should be received from all quarters.

These Resolutions having been approved by King Edward, another meeting was held on February 21st, at which it was decided that a small Committee should be appointed to develop the idea, and, if possible, to obtain sketches or designs for a suitable Memorial.

The Committee was selected as follows:—

A Nominee of the President of the Royal Academy.

A Nominee of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

The Lord Mayor and Viscount Esher, together with a Representative, to be named by King Edward.

At this meeting, Sir Arthur Bigge having been commanded to accompany Your Majesty and the Queen during Your Majesty's tour in the Colonies, Viscount Esher was appointed Honorary Secretary to the General Committee.

On the following day a letter was addressed to the President of the Royal Academy and the President of the Royal Institute of British Architects, inviting them to a private Conference at the Mansion House on February 25th.

Among the various schemes considered at that meeting was a plan prepared under the auspices of Mr. Akers-Douglas, at that time First Commissioner of Works, to remove the row of trees in the centre of The Mall and to transfer the carriageway from the side to the centre thus formed. To place a Statue of Her Majesty, seated under a Canopy, upon a base forty feet square in a wide place to be formed in front of Buckingham Palace, and to erect an Arch at the eastern end of the Avenue.

Of the schemes considered this appeared to

be the best, and on the suggestion of the Lord Mayor it was decided that an immediate appeal should be made for subscriptions, without stating the nature of the Memorial proposed, but explaining that it would be personal and monumental, and would be erected in London.

It was also suggested that a sculptor should be selected and a certain number of architects should be invited to prepare designs for the scheme approved, that from these designs a selection should be made, and that the Sub-Committee should then nominate the artists to be entrusted with the duty of carrying out the work.

A meeting of the General Committee, under the Presidency of The Marquis of Salisbury, was held on March 1st, and as a result of their deliberations, the following announcement was made in the Press:—

"The Committee, appointed by The King, recommend that a Memorial be erected in the neighbourhood of the Abbey and Palace of Westminster, or of Buckingham Palace; the Memorial to include as its most prominent feature a Statue of The Queen.

"This recommendation has been submitted to The King by Viscount Esher (Hon. Secretary), and a Sub-Committee has been appointed to consider the means which should be employed to carry this recommendation into effect. Subscriptions will be received by The Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, E.C., and at the Bank of England."

On March 11th, a meeting of the Sub-Committee was held at St. James's Palace. Present:—Viscount Esher, Lord Windsor (now the Earl of Plymouth), the late Sir Arthur Ellis, Sir Edward Poynter, Mr. A. B. Freeman Mitford (now Lord Redesdale), Sir W. Emerson, and Mr. Sidney Colvin; and it was unanimously resolved that:—

(1) A monumental Memorial should be erected in front of Buckingham Palace, to include a Statue of the Queen.

(2) An Arch commemorative of the progress of Art, Science, etc., during the reign of Queen Victoria should be erected at the Eastern entrance of The Mall, near Spring Gardens.

(3) This to be an architectonic Scheme, involving a modification of The Mall, in order to centre the avenue of trees with the proposed Monument and Buckingham Palace; giving an opportunity for adorning the Avenue with sculptural groups in consonance with a Memorial of the Queen.

On March 19th the Report of the Sub-Committee was laid before the General Committee, who, with the approval of King Edward, decided that the Memorial of Queen Victoria should be erected in front of Buckingham Palace, and that, in order to promote this object a public meeting should be held at the Mansion House, over which The Lord Mayor should preside, the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and other Members of the Committee being present.

On March 26th a meeting was held accordingly at the Mansion House, and in the absence of the Marquis of Salisbury the following resolution, proposed by The Right Honourable Arthur J. Balfour, M.P., was unanimously passed:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting of the citizens of London a National Monument should be erected to the memory of the late beloved Queen Victoria on the site in front